

73c London Road,

Chatteris.



To the Chairman & Members of  
Chatteris Urban District Council,

1) I herewith submit my report as Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1951:-

Area of District:	13719 acres.
Estimates population mid 1951	5500
Rateable Value	£18852
Product of 1d rate	£73
Number of inhabited houses	1736.

The principal industry in the area is agricultural  
although there is one light engineering works employing  
approximately 100 people.

2) VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Males	Females	
Births Live & Legitimate	55	29	26	Birth rate per 1000 population 10.00
Births Stillborn	-	-	-	
Births Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths	45	25	20	Death rate per 1000 8.18
Deaths (Infants under 1 year)	1	-	1	Rate per 1000 live births 18.20.

The chief causes of death were:-

	Male	Female
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1
Hypostatic Pneumonia	1	1
Broncho Pneumonia	1	
Coronary Thrombosis	2	3
Coronary Occlusion	1	
Carcinoma of Caecum		1
Carcinoma of Colon		1
Carcinoma of Cervix		1



Deaths continued

	Male	Female
Subarachoid Haemorrhage	1	
Myocarditis	13	7
Acute left Ventricular failure	1	
Acute heart failure	1	
Acute Bronchitis	3	1
Cor. Pulmonale		1
Congenital absence of bile duct		1
Hydrocephalus		1
Secondary carcinoma of right scapula and ileum (Primary undertermined)	—	1
	25	20

There were no deaths from infectious diseases or of children under two years from diarrhoea.

Throughout the period under review there were practically no epidemic forms of disease. All cases were essentially sporadic. Such a condition points to general efficiency of the sanitary provision of the town.

Death rates compare very favourable with the general death rate for England & Wales. There is good evidence that the population is in extremely good health and consequently maximum contribution is being made towards the increase of agricultural productivity.

### 3) Infectious Diseases Notified

Type	Male	Female
Scarlet Fever	7	8
Whooping Cough	2	4
Measles	6	5
Acute Pneumonia	1	
Erysipelas	1	
Chicken Pox	3	2
Infective Hepatitis	4	2



4) Health Services & Preventive Medicine in the Area

a) STAFF

- i) One part time Medical Officer  
One whole time Sanitary Inspector.
- ii) A District Midwife is appointed and a Maternal and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly. An anti-natal clinic is organised by local medical practitioners. The arrangements generally for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children are adequate. The health visiting service is working satisfactorily.
- iii) Illness - Care and After Care.  
Vaccination and diphtheria immunisation services are available. The ambulance service is very good and the domestic help service satisfactory. Pathological investigations are carried out under arrangement with King Edward VIII Memorial Institute Lewisham. Hospital treatment is available at Doddington Hospital, Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

5) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

a) Water Supply.

Wisbech & District Water Board are the Statutory Authority and a piped main supply from Marham, Norfolk is provided to 1360 houses directly whilst 308 houses are only supplied by stand pipes. The remaining houses in the outlying rural area have no piped supply. The houses which are only supplied by standpipe are mainly in poor structural condition and provide some guide as to the possible size of any slum clearance scheme which may be envisaged.

It is essential not only to continue to attract workers to the outlying fen area but also to provide a satisfactory standard of health and amenity that piped mains supply should be afforded to the outlying districts of the area as soon as possible.



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During the summer a chronic water shortage was apparent in the higher parts of the town.

It is understood that the Water Board have a large scheme in being to remedy this deficiency of pressure and it is essential that this scheme is proceeded with. Some help will be afforded by the new Water Tower of 200,000 gallons' capacity and this tower should soon be in operation. The quality of the water supplied is satisfactory.

b) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Acre Fen sewage disposal plant is now commissioned and is working satisfactorily. This plant serves 40 per cent of the town area and a good quality effluent is being produced.

Crude sewage is still discharged untreated into open surface water drainage dykes from five principal outfalls.

The town area is adequately sewered but the outfalls to the sewers are situated in close proximity to housing estates (in one case less than 100 yards) and the public footpaths cross the dykes themselves. The dykes have little natural flow in summer and the consequent stagnant filthy conditions give rise to strong smells and could precipitate the spread of water borne diseases. The resultant danger to the health of the inhabitants of Chatteris cannot be overstressed. Rat infestation of gardens to houses in the vicinity of the outfalls regularly occurs despite vigorous treatment. In the future, housing development will proceed beyond the present outfalls. Fouling of watercourses and main drainage river occurs. The high biochemical oxygen demand of the sewage results in intolerable conditions for fish life in the Twenty



Foot and Forty Foot Rivers.

Proposals.

It is proposed to take the existing sewage from the outfalls by trunk sewers to a new sewage disposal works designed on modern lines in Nightlayer Fen and to pipe in the drainage dykes in Birch Fen which will still be used as storm overflows. The scheme is ~~designed~~ designed to allow the necessary housing development to proceed without danger to health.

In my opinion this scheme is most essential and urgent in the public health interest and should proceed immediately to

- a) remove the serious pollution now taking place in the local rivers in which the young people of Chatteris bathe.
- b) obviate the grave risk of epidemic water-borne disease.
- c) allow housing development to proceed on balanced and rational lines.
- d) remedy the nuisance of the drainage dykes which run alongside public footpaths (I myself in my youth have slipped in twice)
- e) eradicate the danger to the public health and amenities of Chatteris.

c) Public Cleansing.

House refuse is cleared by contract weekly. There is room for improvement in the methods of collection and the equipment available. Street scavenging is carried out satisfactorily. A critical labour shortage hampers the improvements of these services but steps to improve the service should be taken as opportunity is afforded.

The labour shortage also hampers work at the Refuse Dump but the situation here is generally becoming more satisfactory.

d) Rivers and Streams.

There are no natural rivers or streams within the Urban



area. The town is situated on a layer of Kimmeridge clay thrown up and forming high land above the fen. The rainfall in the area has always gravitated on the east and west sides into the low lying fens. This outfall is intercepted by the artificial cuts and "rivers" made some 300 years ago when the fens were reclaimed.

e) Closet Accommodation.

This is entirely on the water carriage system in the urban area.

F) Schools..

The schools are all supplied with piped water and the general sanitary conditions satisfactory.

g) Feed

i) There is no central slaughterhouse within the urban area. Supplies of meat are delivered weekly from Ely. The only animals inspected were killed in emergency. Appended below is the record of inspection of carcases.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Number killed(if known)	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
<u>Number inspected</u>	-	3	-	1	104
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>					
<u>Whole carcases condemned</u>	-	-	-	-	10
<u>Carcases of which some</u> <u>part or organ was condemned-</u>		-	-	-	-
<u>Percentage of the number</u> <u>inspected affected with</u> <u>disease other than tuber-</u> <u>closis.</u>	-	-	-	-	9.6%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
<u>Whole carcases condemned</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Carcases of which some</u> <u>part or organ was con-</u> <u>demned</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Percentage of the number</u> <u>inspected affected with</u> <u>tuberculosis.</u>	-	-	-	-	-

There was a large incidence of swine fever in the district during the summer. This outbreak is now ended.

All the premises of the food retailers were inspected and found satisfactory. Where minor defects were found they were quickly remedied.



Position of Houses at 31 st December 1951.

	<u>Council</u>	<u>Post War Housing Private Enterprise</u>	<u>Housing Association.</u>
Total number let in Contracts	194	79	12
Total number completed and occupied	150	75	9
Total completed during 1951. (included in total number completed above)	24	2	9
Under Construction	12	4	3

*J. S. L. O'Brien*

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1952.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

This Table is enclosed by request of the Minister of Labour and National Service to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, to be furnished in their annual reports with respect to matters under Part I and Part VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. It is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the report.

Further copies can be supplied on application to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1951 for the \* of in the County of

~~Under the Factories Act, 1937~~ ~~Chancery~~ CAMBS

#### PART I OF THE ACT

##### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities †	1	5	94			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	22	38			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	108			3
TOTAL		29	240			

##### 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1				4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1				6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8				NIL		8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1				9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1				10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL	60	4	4				60

\* e.g. Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

**PART VIII OF THE ACT**

**OUTWORK**

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No. (9)
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (e) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	
Wearing apparel	13							13
Making, etc.								
Cleaning and washing	14							14
Household linen	15							15
Lace, lace curtains and nets	16							16
Curtains and furniture hangings	17							17
Furniture and upholstery	18							18
Electro-plate	19							19
File making	20							20
Brass and brass articles	21							21
Fur pulling	22							22
Iron and steel cables and chains	23							23
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	24							24
Cart gear	25							25
Locks, latches, and keys	26							26
Umbrellas, etc.	27							27
Artificial flowers	28							28
Nets, other than wire nets	29							29
Tents	30							30
Sacks	31							31
Racquet and tennis balls	32							32
Paper bags	33							33
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	34							34
Brush making	35							35
Pea picking	36							36
Feather sorting	37							37
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	38							38
Stuffed toys	39							39
Basket making	40							40
Chocolates and sweetmeats	41							41
Cosaques, Christmas crackers Christmas stockings, etc.	42							42
Textile weaving	43							43
Lampshades	44							44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>							<b>70</b>

*Signature*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Date*

NOTE. The Factories Act, 1937 (S.128), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to report specifically on the administration of the matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council, and to send a copy of his Annual Report, or so much of it as deals with those matters, to the Minister of Labour and National Service; this copy should be addressed to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts. If the Annual Report is presented otherwise than in print, it is unnecessary to include in the copy sent to the Ministry of Labour and National Service the portions which do not relate to the matters above mentioned.